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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/828,819	04/10/2001	Chung Nam Whang	2632-0142P	7521
2292	7590	09/19/2008		
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			EXAMINER	
PO BOX 747			RICKMAN, HOLLY C	
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1794	
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/19/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/828,819	Applicant(s) WHANG ET AL.
	Examiner Holly Rickman	Art Unit 1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(o).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/27/04.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 2-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No.(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Withdrawal of Abandonment

1. The abandonment of this application is withdrawn in view of the petition decision mailed 7/23/04. The examiner sincerely apologizes for the Office's delay in processing the application following entry of the petition decision. Applicant is invited to contact the examiner upon receipt of this action to discuss the merits of the case in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Drawings

2. The objection to the drawings is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the drawings and to the specification.

Specification

3. The objection to the disclosure is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.

Claim Objections

4. The objection to the claims is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. The rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chappert et al. ("Planar Patterned Magnetic Media Obtained by Ion Irradiation" Science, Vol. 280, June 19, 1998, pp. 1919-1922) is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.

8. Claims 2-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Imura et al. (US 4,600,488).

Imura et al. discloses a magnetic recording medium having magnetic layer on a substrate, a first area of the magnetic layer having a first in-plane easy axis of magnetization and a second area of the magnetic layer having a second easy axis of magnetization in a different in-plane direction (see Figure 11 and col. 5, lines 50-61). The angular difference between some of the easy axes of magnetization shown in Figure 11 is 90 degrees.

With regard to claim 5, Imura et al. teaches that the magnetic layer comprises a Ni-Fe alloy (col. 3, line 33).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imura et al. (US 4,600,488) in view of Chappert et al. (US 2004/0259036).

Imura et al. do not disclose the presence of on of Pt, Pd, Au or Tb in the magnetic film. The reference teaches a NiFe magnetic layer to be irradiated with an ion species.

Chappert et al. is also directed to the irradiation of a magnetic material with an ion species. The reference teaches the equivalence the transition metal alloys NiFe and CoPt (see paragraph [0047]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to substitute CoPt (i.e., containing one of the claimed "rare earth material[s]") for the NiFe alloy layer taught by Imura et al. in view of the art recognized equivalence of the two transition metal alloys taught by Chappert et al.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Holly Rickman whose telephone number is (571) 272-1514. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Holly Rickman/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1794